

(b) determining the amount of mitochondrial DNA damage in said tissue of interest; and

AL (c) comparing the amount of mitochondrial DNA damage in the tissue of interest from said individual to the amount of mitochondrial DNA damage in a tissue of interest from a control individual who does not have atherosclerosis, wherein a greater amount of mitochondrial DNA damage in said individual at risk than in said control individual is indicative of atherosclerosis in said individual, wherein said mitochondrial DNA damage is assessed by a measurement selected from the group consisting of measurement of mitochondrial mRNA production, measurement of mitochondrial protein production, measurement of changes in mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation and measurement of changes in mitochondrial ATP production.

Please ~~cancel~~ claim 5.

Please ~~amend~~ claim 11 as follows:

AG 11. (Amended) A method of determining the efficacy of a drug to reduce the risk of atherosclerosis in an individual, comprising the steps of:

(a) collecting a tissue of interest from said individual prior to and subsequent to administering said drug to said individual;  
and

(b) determining the amount of mitochondrial DNA damage in said tissue of interest collected, wherein a decrease in mitochondrial DNA damage subsequent to administering said drug is indicative of a treatment that reduces the risk of atherosclerosis.

### REMARKS

#### Status of the Claims

Claims 1-13 are pending. Claims 1-13 are rejected. Claims 1 and 11 are amended herein. Claim 5 is cancelled.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendments. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE". No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.